

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 PM-03

SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 /059 W

----- 032969

R 191531Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 628

LIMDIS

DAKAR ALSO FOR USDAO

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ML, PINR

SUBJ: MIG-21'S IN MALI

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR MCGUIRE THAT MALIANS HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED TWO MIG-21'S AND WOULD SOON RECEIVE TWO MORE. IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION, DCM ASKED FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE HERE WHAT HE KNEW. ATTACHE HAD HEARD THIS REPORT BUT WAS SCEPTICAL, ASKING WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WERE AND WHY THE RUSSIANS WOULD GIVE SUCH EXPENSIVE PLANES TO MALI. THE MALIANS CERTAINLY COULD NOT PAY FOR THEM, HE SAID.

2. THE ATTACHE ALSO SAID THAT IN TELEPHONING CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE TO CHECK OUT LOCATION OF MIG-21'S (*) HE LEARNED THAT CHINESE ATTACHE HAD BEEN IN AUTO ACCIDENT FEBRUARY 2 NEAR SEGOU (WHERE THERE IS JET CAPABLE STRIP). ATTACHES WIFE AND DRIVER WERE KILLED, AND ATTACHE AND HIS INTERPRETER WERE HURT. ATTACHE MAY HAVE BROKEN HIS ARM.

3. COMMENT: AS WE KNOW, FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE HERE IS SCEPTICAL OF MOST INFORMATION HE CANNOT
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VERIFY HIMSELF AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF

HE CAN LOCATE THE NEW MIG'S. (THE MIG'S MAY, IN FACT,
NOT HAVE ARRIVED.) HIS APPARENT GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH
HIS CHINESE COUNTERPART IS ALSO SOMETHING WE WILL FOLLOW.
MCGUIRE

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NNN

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